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101st Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - - House Document 101-234

AMENDMENTS TO APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, AND THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, PURSUANT TO 31 U.S.C. 1107.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1990.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed

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U.S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

39-011 WASHINGTON : 1990

H180-38

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 10, 1990.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I ask Congress to consider amendments to the fiscal year 1991 request for appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Board for International Broadcasting, and the United States Information Agency. In addition, I ask Congress to consider a request for appropriations language that will make available certain funding that was appropriated in the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 101-302).

As required by law, I am submitting without change amended appropriations requests for the Legislative Branch.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE BUSH.

Estimate No. 8
101st Congress, 2nd Session

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

September 10, 1990

The President

The White House

Submitted for your consideration are requests for several fiscal year 1991 budget amendments. With the exception of the requests for the United States Information Agency and the Board for International Broadcasting, these amendments are all reflected in the Mid-Session Review of the Fiscal Year 1991 Budget.

An amendment is requested for the Department of Agriculture that would further implement your America the Beautiful program. This proposal would provide an additional $175,000,000 for the tree planting initiative. This proposal was included in the Fiscal Year 1991 Budget as an item to be transmitted at a later time.

Amendments of $11,428,000 for administrative and operating costs and $50,672,000 to cover losses are requested for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) in fiscal year 1991. These increases are the result of a level of participation by eligible farmers that is higher than was expected. These increases are needed to fulfill obligations under current law. The Fiscal Year 1991 Budget proposed to eliminate the program and replace it with standing disaster relief authority. The House has approved this proposal and we support the House action.

Two amendments are requested for the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. These proposals would provide $1,776,487,000 for the Food Stamp Program and $471,365,000 for State child nutrition payments to cover unanticipated increases in the level of participation in these programs.

An increase of $1,963,616,000 in resources to pay obligations incurred by the guaranteed student loan program in fiscal years 1990 and 1991 is requested in fiscal year 1991 for the Department of Education. These funds would cover the cost of higher-than-anticipated interest rates and increased student default rates.

Two amendments are requested for the Department of Health and Human Services for increases needed to fund mandatory entitlement programs fully. These include $2,554,674,000 for Grants to States for Medicaid and $2,026,800,000 for the Supplemental security income program. These changes are the result of increased levels of participation in the programs. An amendment is also requested reducing the request for fiscal year

1991 appropriations for Payments to health care trust funds by $1,721,000,000. This reduction is possible because of lower-than-anticipated Medicare enrollment levels.

An increase of $23,000,000 for fiscal year 1991 is requested for the Department of Labor to cover the additional cost of Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits. A larger-than-anticipated number of eligible people are applying for program benefits. Fiscal year 1991 appropriations language is requested to enable the Department of Labor to cover the cost of processing unemployment compensation claims. This is a result of a technical reestimate in the number of claims.

Increases of $239,648,000 for compensation and $168,285,000 for pensions are requested for fiscal year 1991 for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). These increases would cover the cost of higher-than-anticipated caseloads and levels of average benefits. In addition, an increase of $158,000,000 is requested for the VA home loan guaranty program to cover the cost associated with an increased number of foreclosures and property acquisitions.

Amendments totalling $42,310,000 for the Legislative Branch are included in this package without change, as required by law.

Two amendments totalling $14,249,000 for fiscal year 1991 are requested for the United States Information Agency to enable the Voice of America to expand radio broadcasting to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf from 7.5 hours up to 24 hours daily. This increase would be totally offset by a $23,978,000 reduction in the fiscal year 1991 appropriations request for the Board for International Broadcasting.

Appropriations language is requested for the Department of Agriculture to make available $15,000,000 to cover a shortfall in funding for the fiscal year 1990 administrative and operating expenses of the FCIC. These funds were already appropriated in the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 101-302). That Act provides that the funds be made available without the necessity of further Congressional action after the transmittal to Congress of a formal request by the President.

We have carefully reviewed these proposals and are satisfied that they are necessary at this time. Therefore, we recommend that they be transmitted to Congress.

Respectfully yours,

Richard G. Darman
Director

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-514	America the Beautiful, Agriculture	$88,869,000	$175,000,000	$263,869,000

(Delete the appropriations language under the above heading and substitute the following:)

For necessary expenses not otherwise provided for, $263,869,000 of which $88,869,000 will be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, to carry out provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 4601-4-11) including acquisition of lands and waters or interests therein, and necessary administration, of which $140,000,000 shall be for a new private forest land and community tree planting program as authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101-2103, 2105, 2109-2111), and $35,000,000 shall be for a one-time only grant to a private foundation contingent upon the enactment of authorizing legislation.

This amendment would provide $175 million to implement further the President's America the Beautiful program. This request would provide $140 million for the private forest land and community tree planting program and $35 million, contingent upon enactment of authorizing legislation, for a one-time only grant to a private foundation to encourage voluntary action to expand further tree planting in subsequent years. This proposal was included in the Fiscal Year 1991 Budget as an item to be transmitted at a later time and does not affect the current fiscal year 1991 outlay estimate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
	FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION			
A-461	Administrative and operating expenses	$314,429,000	$11,428,000	$325,857,000
A-462	Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund	286,693,000	50,672,000	337,365,000

These proposals would cover the cost of a higher-than-projected level of participation in the program by eligible farmers and would not affect current outlay estimates.

	FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE			
A-508	Food stamp program	15,476,681,000	1,776,487,000	17,253,168,000
A-509	State child nutrition payments	5,105,834,000	471,365,000	5,577,199,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$473,575,000" and substitute $880,698,000 and delete "$4,632,259,000" and substitute $4,696,501,000.)			

These proposals would cover the cost of a higher-than-anticipated level of participation in these programs. Current outlay estimates would not be affected.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-647	Guaranteed student loans (Liquidation of contract authority)	$3,417,806,000	$1,963,616,000	$5,381,422,000

This proposal would cover projected increases in fiscal year 1990 and 1991 costs of the guaranteed student loan program. These costs are a result of projected increases in default claims and higher-than-anticipated interest rates. This request includes an additional $581.3 million to liquidate contract authority obligations incurred in fiscal year 1990 and $1,382.4 million to liquidate obligations in fiscal year 1991. This proposal would not affect current outlay estimates.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
	HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION			
A-719	Grants to States for Medicaid	$34,501,509,000	$2,554,674,000	$37,056,183,000
	This proposal would cover the higher-than-anticipated Medicaid caseload and cost per case. Current outlay estimates would not be affected.			
A-719	Payments to health care trust funds	37,056,000,000	-1,721,000,000	35,335,000,000
	This proposal reflects the reduced payment needed for the Supplementary Medicare Insurance Trust Fund. This reduction is possible because of lower-than-anticipated Medicare enrollment. Current outlay estimates would not be affected.			
	SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION			
A-725	Supplemental security income program	11,998,594,000	2,026,800,000	14,025,394,000
	This proposal would provide the funds needed to cover increased program costs. This increase includes $1.7 billion for costs resulting from the Zebley court case. Current outlay estimates would not be affected.			

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-875	State unemployment insurance and employment service operations	$23,100,000	language	$23,100,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$2,676,300,000" and substitute $2,767,000,000 and delete "$281,219,000" and substitute $371,919,000.)			

This technical change to appropriations language would permit the use of additional funds from the Employment Security Administration account in the Unemployment Trust Fund to process a higher-than-anticipated number of unemployment insurance claims. This language proposal would not affect current outlay estimates.

A-876	Advances to the unemployment trust fund and other funds	328,000,000	23,000,000	351,000,000

This proposal would provide advances to finance an increased number of Trade Adjustment Assistance benefit payments. This proposal is reflected in current outlay estimates.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-997	Compensation (Liquidation of contract authority)	$11,286,856,000	$239,648,000	$11,526,504,000
A-999	Pensions (Liquidation of contract authority)	3,762,052,000	168,285,000	3,930,337,000

These amendments would allow payment of increased costs associated with higher-than-anticipated caseload and average benefits. These amendments would not affect current outlay estimates.

A-1004	Loan guaranty revolving fund	512,200,000	158,000,000	670,200,000

This amendment would cover increased costs associated with a higher-than-anticipated level of foreclosures and property acquisitions and would not affect current outlay estimates.

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-1195	Salaries and expenses	$643,529,000	$3,569,000	$647,098,000
A-1200	Radio construction	124,657,000	10,680,000	135,337,000

These amendments would provide funds for staff, lease payments for additional transmitter time, and other costs necessary to expand Voice of America radio broadcasts to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf from 7.5 hours up to 24 hours daily. The additional costs resulting from this expansion would be fully offset by the accompanying amendment reducing the fiscal year 1991 request for appropriations for the Board for International Broadcasting. Total fiscal year 1991 outlays would not be affected.

BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-1094	Israel Relay Station	$23,978,000	$-23,978,000	---

This amendment would offset a proposed increase for the United States Information Agency (USIA) to provide funds to expand Voice of America radio broadcasts to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. This offset is possible because of a decision to reduce slightly the size of a joint USIA/Board for International Broadcasting shortwave radio relay station in Israel to reflect the reduced need to broadcast into Eastern Europe in light of the favorable political changes in that region. Since this proposal fully offsets the fiscal year 1991 increased outlay requirements for the USIA, total outlays are not affected.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
	SENATE			
	CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE			
A-349	Sergeant of Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate	$88,361,000	$2,395,000	$90,756,000
	This proposal would not increase current outlay estimates.			
	JOINT ITEMS			
A-353	Official mail costs	97,704,000	34,915,000	132,619,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$62,204,000" and substitute $97,119,000.)			
	This proposal would not increase current outlay estimates.			
	ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL			
A-354	Salaries and expenses	217,332,000	5,000,000	222,332,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading delete "$83,252,000" and substitute $88,252,000, delete "$12,608,000" and substitute $17,608,000, and delete "$3,750,000" and substitute $8,750,000.)			
	This proposal would provide for the acquisition and renovation of property for the Library of Congress and would not increase current outlay estimates.			

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

1991 Budget Appendix Page	Heading	1991 Budget Request Pending	1991 Proposed Amendment	1991 Revised Request
A-358	Salaries and expenses	$191,141,000	language	$191,141,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$197,741,000" and substitute $198,166,000 and delete "$6,600,000" in the two places that it appears and substitute $7,025,000.)			

This language change would permit the Library of Congress to increase the availability of funds received through fees collected from State libraries and would not affect outlays.

A-359	Copyright Office, Salaries and expenses	11,246,000	language	11,246,000
	(In the appropriations language under the above heading, delete "$25,755,000" and substitute $26,323,000, delete "$1,509,000" and substitute $2,077,000, and delete "$14,509,000" and substitute $15,077,000.)			

This language change would permit the Copyright Office to recover from royalty fees the indirect costs of licensing operations. Fiscal year 1991 outlays would not be affected.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION

Administrative and Operating Expenses

For an additional amount for "Administrative and operating expenses", as authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1516), $15,000,000.

This appropriations language is requested to meet the requirement of the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 101-302) that makes the availability of these funds contingent upon a formal Presidential request. The funds are needed to cover a shortfall in funding for administrative and operating expenses of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC). This shortfall is a result of a greater-than-anticipated demand for crop insurance and the concurrently higher cost to the FCIC of administering and operating the program. Public Law 101-302 provides that these funds will be made available without the necessity of further Congressional action after the transmittal to Congress of a formal request by the President. This language proposal would not affect current outlay estimates.